

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the examiner's indication that original claims 20-93 are allowed, and further appreciates the indication that claims 2, 3, 5, 6, 9, 12, 13, and 16-19 are objected to as allowable but for their dependence on a rejected base claim. In this response, Applicant amends claim 1 to include all limitations from its objected-to, dependent claim 2. That action places claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims in condition for immediate allowance, thereby placing the entire application in condition for immediate allowance.

Further, Applicant amended selected other claims that depended from claim 1, to harmonize them with the amended language of claim 1. No new matter is added by any such change, and all changes are entirely consistent with the original claim language. For the examiner's convenience, and in view of the desire to advance this case directly to allowance, Applicant below explains every amendment presented herein.

First, as noted, the entirety of claim 2 was incorporated into claim 1. Applicant correspondingly canceled claim 2. Applicant also canceled claim 5 to avoid any redundancy with the amended claim 1.

The cancellation of claim 5 necessitated amending claim 6 to correct its dependency. As amended, claim 6 depends directly from claim 1. Claim 6 is further amended so that its recitation of language from claim 1 matches the amendments made herein to claim 1.

Similarly, claim 9 relates to the amended portion of claim 1 and is amended so that its recitation of language from claim 1 matches the amendments made to claim 1. Applicant believes that the changes to claim 9 prevent any possible ambiguity between the limitations of claim 1 and the further limitations of claim 9.

Likewise, claims 12, 16, 17, and 18, each relate to the amended portion of claim 1 and each is amended so that its recitation of language from claim 1 matches the amendments made to claim 1. Applicant believes that the changes to claims 12, 16, 17, and 18 prevent any

possible ambiguity between the limitations of claim 1 and the further limitations of claims 12, 16, 17, and 18.

With the incorporation of claim 2 into claim 1, and with the corresponding dependent claim amendments explained above, Applicant believes that claim 1 and its remaining dependent claims stand in condition for allowance, along with the allowed claims 20-93. As such, Applicant looks forward to receiving notice of such allowance. Of course, the undersigned attorney would welcome the examiner's phone call, should any questions remain.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.



Michael D. Murphy
Registration No.: 44,958

1400 Crescent Green, Suite 300
Cary, NC 27518
Telephone: (919) 854-1844
Facsimile: (919) 854-2084

Dated: December 13, 2007